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HELSINKI SUMMIT

TRUMP ACCEPTS PUTIN'S DENIAL

PROBE: Intelligence findings are cast aside. **OUTRAGE:** Lawmakers' condemnation swift.

President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands after a press conference on their meeting in Helsinki, Finland. DMITRY AZAROV/Kommersant

By Philip Rucker, Anton Troianovski, and Seung Min Kim
WASHINGTON POST

President Trump handed Russian President Vladimir Putin an unalloyed diplomatic triumph during their summit in Helsinki on Monday as he refused to support the collective conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Trump's warm rhetorical embrace of Putin, who he said had given him an "extremely strong and powerful" denial that Russia assaulted America's democracy, marked an extraordinary capstone to the first formal meeting between the current leaders of the world's nuclear superpowers and sparked trepidation and horror among many in Washington and around the globe.

At a remarkable 46-minute joint news conference inside the Finnish presidential palace, Trump would not challenge Putin's claim that the Russian government played no role in trying to sabotage the U.S. election, despite the Justice Department's indictments Friday of 12 Russian intelligence officers Friday accused of hacking

See **PUTIN** on A2

▶ **RUSSIAN ARRESTED**: Gun-rights activist Maria Butina a covert agent, feds say. **A3**

CONGRESS: Republicans call meeting "bizarre" and "shameful."

By Lisa Mascaro and Matthew Daly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — "Bizarre." "Shameful." "Disgraceful."

That's the swift and sweeping condemnation directed at President Trump on Monday after he sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a stunning appearance in Helsinki — and that's just from the Republicans.

Lawmakers in both major parties and former intelligence officials appeared shocked, dismayed, and uneasy with Trump's suggestion that he believes Putin's denial of interfering in the 2016 elections. It was a remarkable break with U.S. intelligence officials and the Justice Department. And just as alarming for some, Trump also put the two countries on the same footing when

See **REACTIONS** on A2

▶ **LOCAL REACTION**: Pa. and N.J. politicians deliver a bipartisan rebuke on summit. **A3**

COMMENTARY: After trashing allies, president embraces an adversary.

Call it the Surrender Summit.

President Trump stood beside Vladimir Putin in Helsinki and actually blamed America for Russian attacks on our country. (You could also call this the Blame America First summit.)

TRUDY RUBIN
@trudyrubin

A gullible U.S. president swallowed Putin's denial of any Russian role.

The president betrayed every American with his craven performance in Finland. He made his top advisers look foolish, He trashed his own intelligence community and Justice Department, to the delight of Putin.

It is long past time for any GOP leader who cares about U.S. security to call Trump out.

The president made clear to the press that he

See **TRUDY RUBIN** on A2

LIBERIAN WAR ATROCITIES

Conviction of Delco man brings some sense of justice

By Jeremy Roebuck
STAFF WRITER

Before moving to Liberia nearly three decades ago, Sister Kathleen McGuire made a pilgrimage to the graves of four American nuns whose murders during a 1980 relief mission to war-torn El Salvador inspired her own decision to move halfway across the world.

She hoped that, like them, she could bring comfort to emotionally scarred people caught up in the chaos of conflict.

She never imagined that, like them, her charity would result in her death.

Sister Kathleen and four other members of her Roman Catholic order were murdered in 1992 as rebel forces under the command of warlord Charles Taylor cut a path of devastation through the suburbs of Liberia's capital, Monrovia. Their bodies were burned, mutilated with machetes, and left to rot for weeks,

See **LIBERIA** on A9

Sisters (from left) Kathleen McGuire, Barbara Ann Muttra, Shirley Kolmer, and Mary Joel Kolmer were among five nuns killed in 1992 during the years of civil war in Liberia. Courtesy of Adorers of the Blood of Christ

CIGARILLOS AND YOUTH

City loses tool in efforts on tobacco

New Pa. law forbids adding local regulation. Flavored products are a growing concern.

By Aneri Pattani
STAFF WRITER

Vine Woods has never smoked a cigarette. "Dirty," he calls them. But cherry-flavored Black & Mild cigarillos are different. The North Philadelphia teen has been smoking about one a day since he was 16.

Now 18, Woods says the flavoring makes the cigarillo smoother, so the smoke doesn't irritate his throat.

"A lot of young people are afraid of cigarettes. But starting with Black & Mild is different," Woods said about the brand of tobacco products popular in his community.

Philadelphia teens are increasingly ditching cigarettes in favor of flavored cigarillos, cigars about the size of a cigarette. Data from the city's health department shows cigarette use decreased nearly 3 percent from 2011 to 2015. Yet cigar use (including cigarillos) doubled overall, and nearly tripled among black teens, a city survey showed.

Wood's friend Terrell Bul-

See **CIGARILLOS** on A8

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